

U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Inmate Death at USP Leavenworth

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On Thursday, December 31, 2020, inmate Thomas Church tested positive for COVID-19 at the United States Penitentiary (USP) Leavenworth's satellite camp in Leavenworth, Kansas. He was evaluated by institution medical staff for shortness of breath and transported to a local hospital for further treatment and evaluation. During his hospital admission, his condition continued to decline. On Tuesday, January 5, 2021, he was intubated and placed on a ventilator. On Saturday, January 16, 2021, Mr. Church, who had long-term, pre-existing medical conditions, which the CDC lists as risk factors for developing more severe COVID-19 disease, was pronounced deceased by hospital staff.

Mr. Church was a 63-year-old male who sentenced in the District of Kansas to a 157-month sentence for Conspiracy to Distribute 500 Grams or More of Methamphetamine. He had been at USP Leavenworth since February 1, 2017.

USP Leavenworth is a medium security facility with an adjacent minimum security satellite camp, which together currently house 1,535 male offenders.

The Bureau of Prisons will continue to provide daily updates and information on actions related to COVID-19 at www.bop.gov/coronavirus/index.jsp.

Additional information about the Bureau of Prisons can be found at www.bop.gov.

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